

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are cancelled and claims 11-13, 17 and 19-23 have been amended in order to delete the multiple dependencies in order to conform with U.S. practice. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

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August 3, 2001  
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Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made to claims

11. (Amended) The water-jet cutting system as claimed in claim 9 [or 10], characterized in that the pressure-generating device (1) has a linear drive (7), in particular an electromechanically operated linear actuator, which applies pressure to a plunger element (6) of the supply reservoir (2).

12. (Amended) The water-jet cutting system as claimed in [at least one of claims 9 to 11] claim 9, characterized in that the supply reservoir (2), via at least one quick-acting lock (8), if necessary as a thread or as a bayonet lock, is connected to the pressure-generating device (1) in such a way that it can be released again.

13. (Amended) The water-jet cutting system as claimed in [at least one of claims 9 to 12] claim 9, characterized in that at least two pressure-generating devices (1) having interchangeable supply reservoirs (2) can be connected to one cutting-nozzle element (S, S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>3</sub>), either the one or the other pressure-generating device (1) delivering the severing medium (4) to the cutting-nozzle element (S, S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>3</sub>).

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17. (Amended) The cutting-nozzle element as claimed in claim 15 [or 16], characterized in that the shut-off element (14) is arranged inside the nozzle body (12) in such a way that it can be moved in a translatory and/or rotational manner, in particular in a reciprocating manner.

19. (Amended) The cutting-nozzle element as claimed in [at least one of claims 15 to 18] claim 15, characterized in that a gap or conical annular gap (16), through which the severing medium (4) flows, is formed in between cutting-nozzle body (12) and shut-off element (14).

20. (Amended) The cutting-nozzle element as claimed in [at least one of claims 15 to 19] claim 15, characterized in that, to draw off severing medium and biological substances, the shut-off element (14) is designed like a hollow shaft and projects at the end face from the cutting-nozzle body (12).

21. (Amended) The cutting-nozzle element as claimed in [at least one of claims 15 to 20] claim 15, characterized in that the shut-off element (14) is provided with a shaft shoulder (18) which closes the nozzle opening (13) and to which pressure is applied axially by means of an energy-storing element (19).

22. (Amended) The cutting-nozzle element as claimed in [at least one of claims 15 to 21] claim 15, characterized in that an elastic tube element (22) adjoins the shut-off element (14) for drawing off and compensates for a translatory and/or rotational movement of the shut-off element (14).

23. (Amended) The cutting-nozzle element as claimed in [at least one of claims 15 to 22] claim 15, characterized in that a rotatable shut-off element (14) is inserted into the cutting-nozzle body (12).

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